U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - FOREST SERVICE
CALIFORNIA FOREST AND RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION
Division of Forest Insect Research

FOREST INSECT CONDITIONS
LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK
RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY
SUMMER, 1957

INTRODUCTION

On August 29, a reconnaissance-type survey was conducted on the Manzanita Lake, Lost Creek and Badger Flat Units of Lassen Volcanic National Park by B.E. Wickman of the California Forest and Range Experiment Station and Park Forester Mike Myer. The Butte Lake Unit had previously been inspected on July 1. (See map.) The purpose of these surveys was to appraise the effectiveness of maintenance control work which was carried on last winter, and to estimate control needs for the coming winter.

INSECT AND HOST SPECIES

The principal host trees in the Park, toward which insect control is directed, and their insect enemies are as follows: In Jeffrey pine, the most prevalent host, there are the Jeffrey pine beetle, Dendroctonus jeffreyi Hopk. and the California flatheaded borer, Melanophila californica Van D.; in ponderosa pine the western pine beetle, D. brevicomis Lec. is an important pest; and in sugar pine the mountain pine beetle, D. monticolae Hopk., is a primary tree killer.

STATUS OF INFESTATION

Insect activity in the Park has been at a low level during the last 3 years. This can be attributed mainly to the continued maintenance control work being carried on by the Park and to natural enemies of the Jeffrey pine beetle. No infested trees were noticed in the Butte Lake unit inspected on July 1, and currently infested trees were scarce in the units checked on August 29. The only concentration of any sort found were 2 Jeffrey pine infested with the Jeffrey pine beetle and 2 sugar pine infested with mountain pine beetle in the vicinity of the Old Emigrant Road and the main highway.

DISCUSSION

The outlook for a minimum amount of insect damage in the Park next year is good. However, statewide observation shows an increase in pine loss due to insects. Consequently, Park personnel should be especially watchful for any newly faded pine trees which might indicate an insect buildup. Continued maintenance control of the few trees noted will aid in keeping the infestation at its current low level.

SUMMARY

Forest insect conditions in Lassen Volcanic National Park were surveyed in July and August, and the insects were found to be at a very low level of infestation. Natural factors and a very well planned control program are believed to be responsible for this condition. Because of increased insect activity in nearby areas, the Park should be watched closely for newly infested trees.

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Attachment

INSECT CONTROL UNITS

LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK

CALIFORNIA